

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1016

By Clemmons

A RESOLUTION to recognize and congratulate Mark S.
Freedman upon the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of service; and

WHEREAS, Mark S. Freedman is one such estimable individual, who has devoted his nearly forty-year career to providing exceptional leadership to Jewish organizations at both local and national levels; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Freedman will be taking a much-deserved retirement from his current position as executive director of the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, having ably served in this capacity since September of 2011; and

WHEREAS, Mark Freedman received his undergraduate degree in political science from Bard College and holds a master's degree from the University of North Carolina and a doctoral degree from The Ohio State University; he devoted his graduate study to the field of educational research and teacher education; and

WHEREAS, serving on the faculty at Rutgers University from 1978 until 1983, Mr. Freedman then began his Jewish communal career by serving as the associate director of communications for the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, a position he held until 1986; and

WHEREAS, from 1986 until 1995, Mark Freedman was the executive director of the Southeast Region of the American Jewish Congress, in which capacity he significantly enhanced the region's fundraising and development efforts and served as the chief lobbyist; his lobbying efforts resulted in the passage of the Holocaust Education Act in 1994, which mandated the teaching of the history of the Holocaust in Florida's public schools; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Freedman was the executive director of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio from 1995 until 2008; during his tenure there, the federation spearheaded a \$20 million capital campaign that led to the construction of the 125,000-square-foot campus of the San Antonio Jewish Community, which opened its doors in 1999; during this time, he also oversaw the increase in the San Antonio Federation's endowment fund from \$4 million in 1995 to over \$20 million by 2007 and led more than a dozen community and leadership missions to Israel, Cuba, Eastern Europe, and the former Soviet Union; and

WHEREAS, Mark Freedman was also involved in numerous leadership activities with the Jewish Federation of San Antonio's national umbrella group, the Jewish Federations of North America, which he served as chair of the Intermediate Federations Executive Directors' group; he was a member of the Overseas Needs Assessment and Distribution Committee and was one of only twenty-five federation professionals selected to participate in the Executive Development Program from 2005 to 2007. He also served as an associate member of the Board of Governors of the Jewish Agency for Israel from 2002 through 2005; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, Mr. Freedman returned to South Florida, where he was the vice president of the Southeast Region of the American Friends of Tel Aviv University, serving in this capacity until his move to Nashville in 2011; and

WHEREAS, Mark Freedman is an active and important part of his community and his profession, and he has contributed greatly to growth, development, and outreach during his tenure at the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Mark Freedman exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Mr. Freedman has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the sincere respect and admiration of his colleagues; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we extend to Mark S. Freedman our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.